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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-07

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 /008 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O- SNYDER
8/24/73
APPROVED BY S/S-O: NEWLIN
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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS; PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CHILE: POLITICAL CRISIS CONTINUES

IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TRANSPORT STRIKE AND VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, CHILE'S DEFENSE MINISTER AND ARMY COMMANDER, GENERAL PRATS, SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO PRESIDENT ALLENDE. ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, THE REMAINING FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF THE CABINET ALSO RE-SIGNED, BUT ALLENDE HAS ACCEPTED ONLY GEN. PRATS' RESIGNATION. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANTIAGO 3786 AND REUTER RNR 210, 8/23.

2. FRANCE AND EUROPE -- THE GERMAN CONNECTION

IN ANALYZING FRANCE'S VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, EMBASSY PARIS SEES THE COUNTRY LOCKED INTO CONTRADICTORY
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POLICIES BASED ON A RE-EMERGENCE OF ITS DEEP-SEATED FEAR

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OF GERMANY. FRANCE PURSUES DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION, YET SEES IN THE FRG'S OSTPOLITIK A GROWING DANGER OF GERMAN NEUTRALITY AND FEARS THAT THE US-USSR RAPPROCHE-MENT WEAKENS THE SECURITY OF EUROPE. FRANCE CONTINUES TO DEFEND ITS CONCEPT OF AN INDEPENDENT WESTERN EUROPE,

BUT IT SUPPORTS THE RETENTION OF US TROOPS IN EUROPE, ESPECIALLY IN GERMANY, AND REFUSES TO COMMIT ITSELF TO COOPERATIVE EUROPEAN DEFENSE ACTIVITIES. (SECRET) PARIS 22562, 8/23 (NOFORN).

3. FRANCE MOVING TOWARD EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION?

THE CHIEF OF THE NATO OFFICE IN THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS TOLD EMBASSY ROME THAT THE FRENCH SEEM TO BE MOVING TOWARD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. THE OFFICIAL COMMENTED THAT FRANCE'S MOTIVATION WAS STILL TO BE TESTED. (SECRET) ROME 8591, 8/23.

4. LAO ACCORD MAY BE SIGNED THIS WEEK

AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA AND LAO PATRIOTIC FRONT (LPF) NEGOTIATOR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, CHARGE DEAN IN VIENTIANE FEELS THAT THE LAO PROTOCOL MAY BE READY FOR SIGNATURE BY AUGUST 24 OR 25. SOUVANNA HAS REQUESTED ONE FINAL CONCESSION OF THE LPF. IF THIS IS ACCEPTED THE MILITARY WILL STAND FIRMLY BEHIND SOUVANNA AND AGREEMENT WILL BE POSSIBLE. (SECRET) VIENTIANE 5879, 8/23 (EXDIS). RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE168575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O- SNYDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P750011-0416
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730815/aaaaakys.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, XX, XG, CI
To: JCS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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